



## WIRELESS EBT PROJECT May 2022 Newsletter



### From the Editor – Tracy Penick

Month	EBT Transactions	Debit/Credit Transactions	Total Transactions	EBT Sales	Debit/Credit Sales	Total Sales
January	33	414	447	\$3,171.61	\$28,594.50	\$31,766.11
February	30	568	598	\$2,761.92	\$35,310.36	\$38,072.28
March	47	582	629	\$4,271.96	\$28,397.82	\$32,669.78
April	35	3,267	3,302	\$2,963.71	\$205,082.84	\$208,046.55
Total for Year	145	4,831	4,976	\$13,169.20	\$297,385.52	\$310,554.72

#### April 2022 Facts:

Total sales for April this year were lower than April 2021 (\$208,046.55 compared to \$291,421.21). The number of EBT transactions were lower in 2022 than in 2021 (35 compared to 61). For April 2022, there were a total of 3,302 wireless transactions compared to 4,714 in 2021.

In April 2022, there were 141,284 SNAP/EBT families in Iowa. \$39,456,546 in benefits were issued in April to these families.

### Visiting Farmers Markets

I had the opportunity to visit some farmers markets on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. My first stop was to the Rinehart Family Farmers Market in Boone. This is a drive through market on the Rinehart's Farm so the customers never have to leave their cars and can just order what they want as they drive through. Very impressed with how organized this market was and how many cars were in line.



Greg & Polly Rinehart

My next stop was the Ames Main Street Farmers Market to check in with Fisher's Flowers & Produce. The Fisher's had some beautiful plants for sale.



Lisa, Jody & Joyce Fisher  
Fisher's Flowers & Produce

My next stop was the North Grand Mall in Ames. DeMoss Pumpkin Farm have an inside booth at the mall where they sell their products. As always, Letha had tons of her baked goods at their booth.



Dick & Letha DeMoss  
DeMoss Pumpkin Farm

My final stop was the Downtown Des Moines farmers market. It was nice to be able to stop and talk with the vendors that attend this market. As always, this market was busy, and a lot of vendors were sold out of their products.



Justin & Erin Kamerick  
Windy Hills Homestead

It was great to see everyone, and I love seeing the new signage posted at everyone's booth.

## New posters for the DHS county offices

The new posters have been mailed to the county DHS offices. On the posters are listed all the farmers markets and roadside stands in their area that have farmers that can accept EBT. This is one of the ways that DHS promotes what markets you are attending to the Iowa SNAP families.



## Seed and Vegetable Plants can be purchased with EBT

Many greenhouses are open, so I wanted to remind everyone about allowable food items for SNAP/EBT. Seeds that grow eligible food items can be purchased with an EBT card. This includes tomato, cucumber seeds, etc. EBT cards can also be used to purchase plants that produce food such as pepper and tomato plants.

For more information on what can be purchased with EBT, go to USDA website listed below.  
<https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligible-food-items>

## Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Some of the farmers that participate in the Wireless EBT Project offer CSAs to their clients. The below information only pertains to clients that are using their EBT benefits for CSAs.

- For SNAP recipients – payment may be accepted no more than 14 days in advance of product delivery.
- SNAP (EBT) benefits may not be used to pay any administrative or membership fees associated with operating a CSA.

## USDA reauthorization

Just a reminder that you must reauthorize every 5 years with the USDA to accept EBT. If you receive a reauthorization letter from the USDA, please complete and return it promptly. If you don't complete the paperwork timely, you will lose your EBT authorization and will have to reapply and complete the application to come back into the program.

We have had several farmers lose their EBT authorization because they did not return the required paperwork back to the USDA.

Just a reminder that you must be authorized by the USDA to accept EBT to participate in The Wireless EBT Project.

## Update information with the USDA

Just a reminder that it is extremely important to report any changes to the USDA. The USDA is who authorized you to accept EBT. If you have a name change or an address change it needs to be reported so that your authorization is up to date. If you have a change, please call 312-353-6609 to report the change.

## Changes to your contact information?

It is very important that DHS has your current email address and your correct phone numbers. I send out a lot of important information and if DHS does not have your current information, you could be missing out on important information. Please make sure that if you change your email address or drop or pick up a new phone number that you share that information with me.

## Paper for your wireless machine

Just a reminder that DHS supplies the paper rolls for your wireless machines. It is imperative that you use thermal paper, or it could ruin your machine. Please do not use any other type of paper in your wireless machine other than the paper that DHS supplies. If you are running low on paper, please contact Jan at 515-971-1076.

## Reminders:

1. **Remember that you cannot ring up a sale for another vendor. You could lose your SNAP (EBT) certification and be terminated from the Wireless EBT Project.**
2. **Since you are paying for the commercial transaction fees, be sure to keep track of what you are paying so you can use those expenses as a tax deduction.**
3. **You cannot set a minimum purchase amount. If an EBT household wishes to purchase \$.50 in onions, you do need to process the transaction. Same for any debit or credit transactions.**
4. **Hot foods and hot drinks (cocoa, coffee, and tea) cannot be purchased with SNAP EBT benefits.**
5. **If you experience technical issues with your PAX A920 machine, please call GoEBT at 1-877-418-7957. If you can't get the problem solved, please call Tracy.**

## Help Desk

**We are here to help you!**

**When you have questions about:**

- **Participating in the Wireless EBT Project? Call Tracy Penick at 515-491-6325.**
- **What you can sell to EBT customers, or being authorized to accept EBT? Call USDA/FNS at 877-823-4369.**
- **SNAP eligibility? Call Kari Lind at 515-281-7000.**
- **Supplies – call Jan Walters at 515-971-1076.**